



FWOO

A MERE
LIFELESS
MACHINE
LIKE YOU...

DARED
ORDER A
HUMAN...



...ABOUT
THAT TIME
WHEN YOU
TOLD ME TO
"MOVE."

I GUESS
YOU
FORGOT
IT.



OHH,
YOU SAY
YOU'RE
FIGHTING
ALTHOUGH
I LET YOU
GO...?

FOOLISH
MAN.



HERE I
COME,
PANTA-
LONE!!

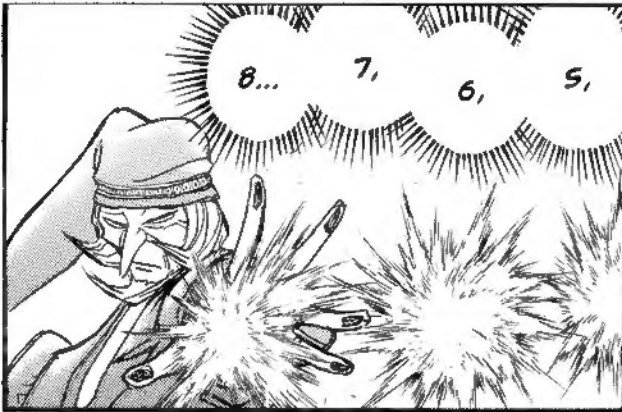


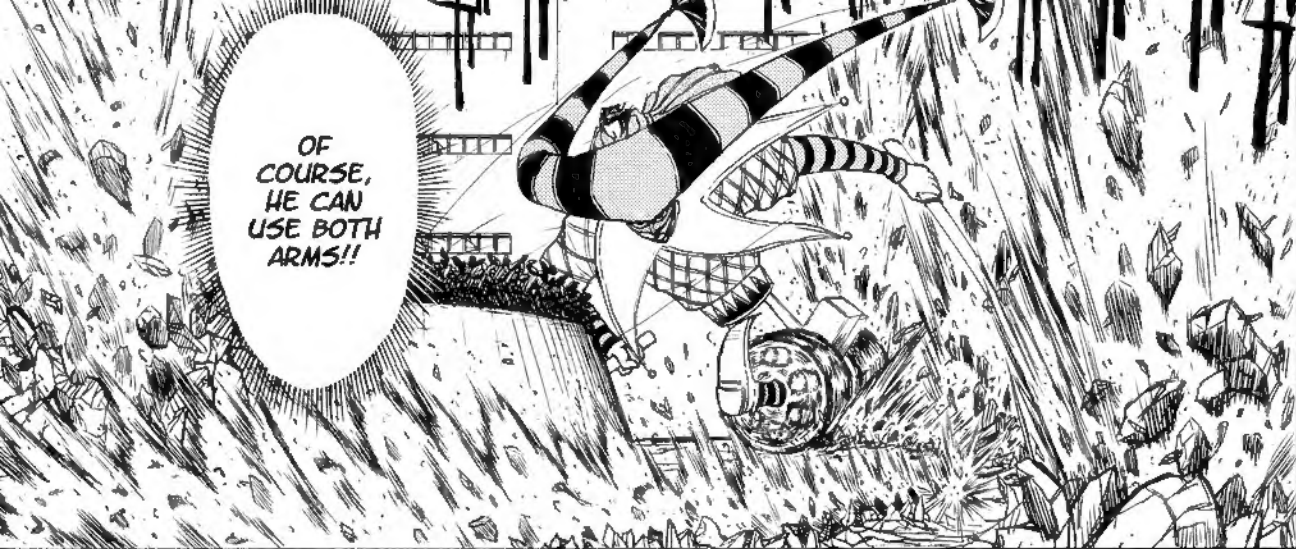
I'LL
ERASE
THAT
SO-
CALLED
LIFE
YOU'RE
PROUD
OF!!

THEN
FACE
ME,
PUP-
PETEER
!!

ACT 32-
DEMON DANCE, SCENE 6

ACT 32 — DEMON DANCE, SCENE 6





OF
COURSE,
HE CAN
USE BOTH
ARMS!!



HE
ALTERNATES
IN NINE SHOTS...
I CAN'T GET
CLOSE...

IT
DOESN'T
END!!



MY, THANK YOU
FOR KINDLY
LETTING ME
KNOW.
HOWEVER, I'M A
PROFESSIONAL
HIT MAN.

TCH...



WHAT'S
THE
MATTER,
PUP-
PETEER?!

MY "LES
MAINS VERT
FORCE"
SHOOTS
COMPRESSED
AIR BULLETS!
THERE'S NO
END TO
THEM.



LEAVING WITH
YOUR TAIL
BETWEEN YOUR
LEGS JUST
BECAUSE YOUR
TARGET'S GOT A
HUGE GUN ISN'T
PART OF THE
BUSINESS!!

THE ONLY
GAP IS
THE SINGLE
INSTANT HE
SWITCHES
HANDS!!



WHAT
THAT OLD
GEEZER
SAID WAS
RIGHT!!

HEH...
BUT HIS
MOVE-
MENTS
AREN'T
THAT
FAST!!



THEN, I
SHALL PUT
AN END
TO THAT
BUSINESS
TODAY.

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THE
"GOLDEN
RULE"
ANSWERS
EXACTLY
THAT... THE
REASON WHY
YOU CAN
WIN.

ASHIHANA,
JUST NOW
YOU SAID
YOU DON'T
THINK YOU
CAN BEAT
THOSE
DOLLS...



THE
HELL
IS
THAT?

THE
"GOLDEN
RULE" OF
THE AUTO-
MATA?!

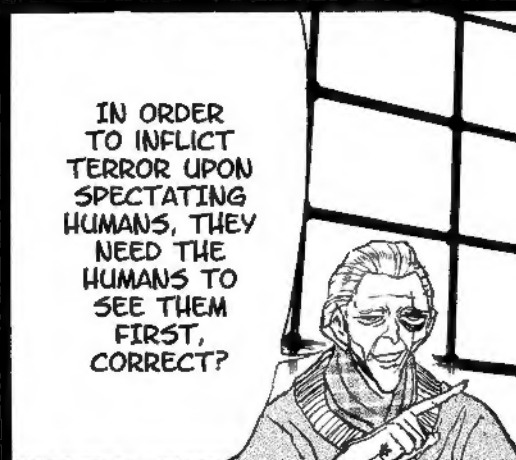


ASHIHANA, YOU'RE UNWARE OF THIS, BUT AUTOMATA WERE ORIGINALLY CREATED AS CLOWNS TO INFLICT TERROR AND PAIN UPON HUMANS...

I DON'T GET IT.



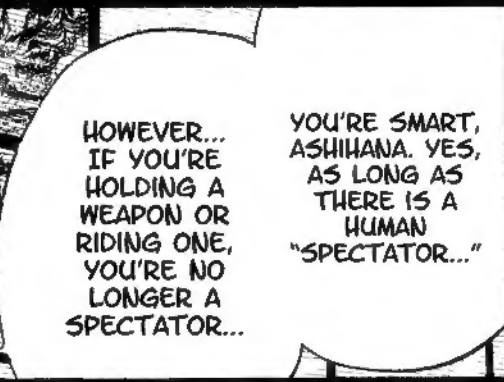
.....SO WHAT YOU'RE SAYIN' IS, THEY CAN'T MOVE AT A SPEED THAT HUMANS CAN'T SEE... RIGHT...?



IN ORDER TO INFLICT TERROR UPON SPECTATING HUMANS, THEY NEED THE HUMANS TO SEE THEM FIRST, CORRECT?

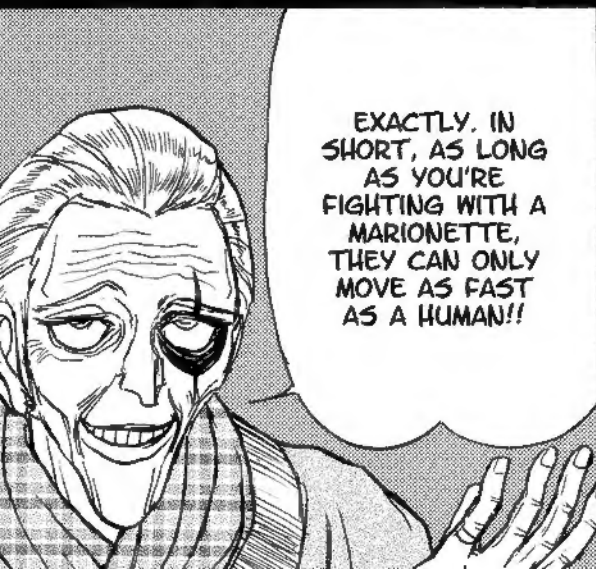


HUH...?



HOWEVER... IF YOU'RE HOLDING A WEAPON OR RIDING ONE, YOU'RE NO LONGER A SPECTATOR...

YOU'RE SMART, ASHIHANA. YES, AS LONG AS THERE IS A HUMAN "SPECTATOR..."

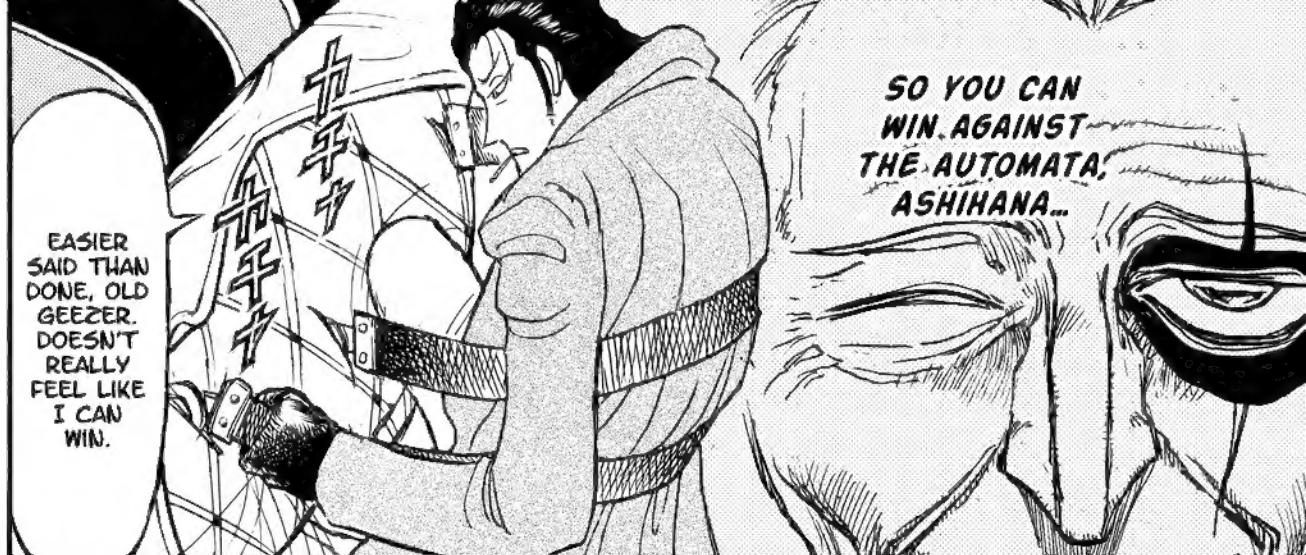


EXACTLY. IN SHORT, AS LONG AS YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH A MARIONETTE, THEY CAN ONLY MOVE AS FAST AS A HUMAN!!



SINCE IT'S AMBIGUOUS WHETHER PUPPETRY IS USED AS AN ART OR AS A WEAPON...

OH, I SEE. SO THAT'S WHY THE SHIROGANE USES MARIONETTES TO FIGHT THEM.



EASIER
SAID THAN
DONE, OLD
GEEZER.
DOESN'T
REALLY
FEEL LIKE
I CAN
WIN.

SO YOU CAN
WIN AGAINST
THE AUTOMATA,
ASHIHANA...

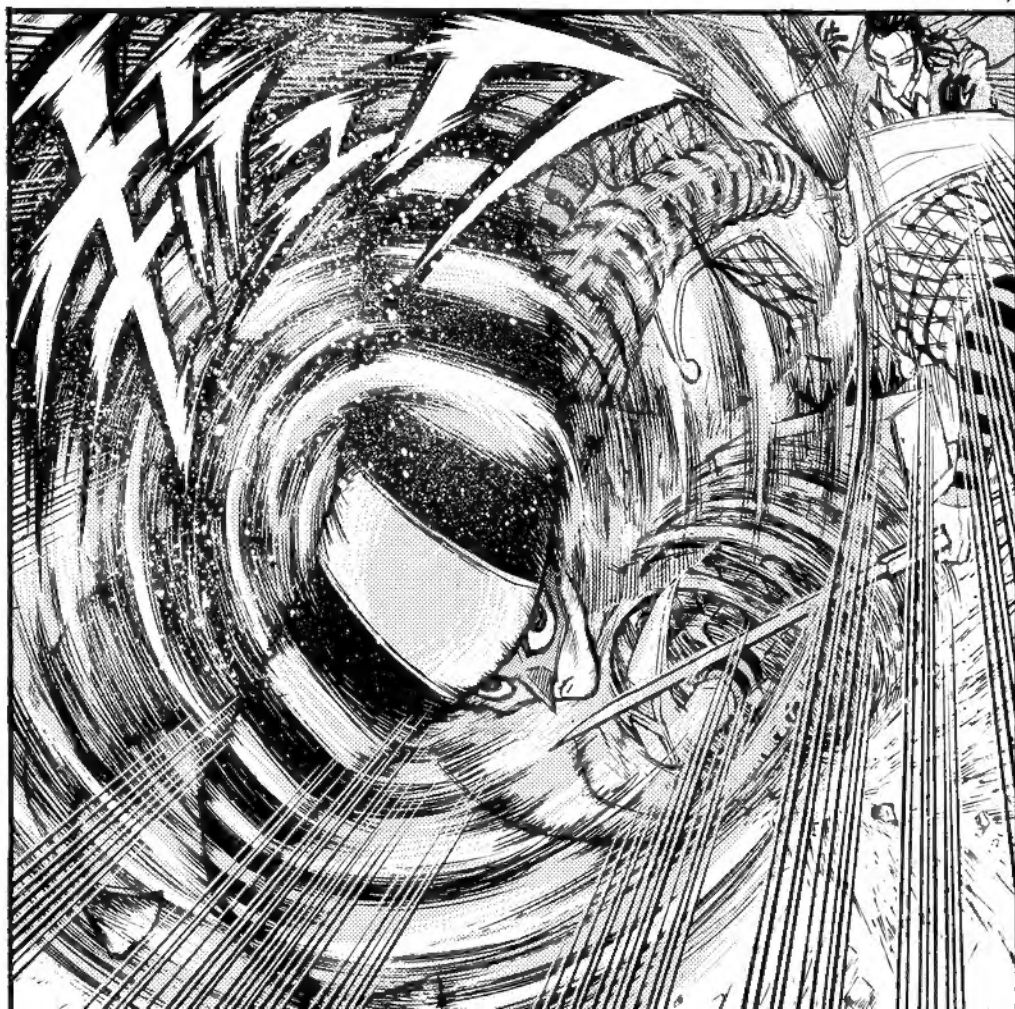


HUH
...?



...WHAT-
EVER, I
CAN AT
LEAST
TRY.....







8









11



SHAME
FOR
YOU,
HUMAN
....

YOU DID
WELL,
BUT...



12



COME ON!!

キュウキ







14





YOUR
PUPPETRY
IS GOOD.

I THOUGHT
I SHOULD
REMEMBER
YOUR NAME...
BEFORE I
KILLED YOU...



IT'S...
A-ASHI-
HANA...

WHY
...?

OUCHH
...

...NO
WONDER...
I GOT THIS
GIANT SHIT
STUCK ON
MY SIDE...

.....I
GUESS
THIS IS
IT.



HOW
NICE
...

...OF
YOU...

15



HOHOHOH.
NORMAL,
YOU
SAY...?
WHO ARE
YOU
TALKING
ABOUT?

EVEN IF
YOU SAY I
CAN BEAT
THEM...

BUT I'M
JUST A
NORMAL
HUMAN,
POPS.

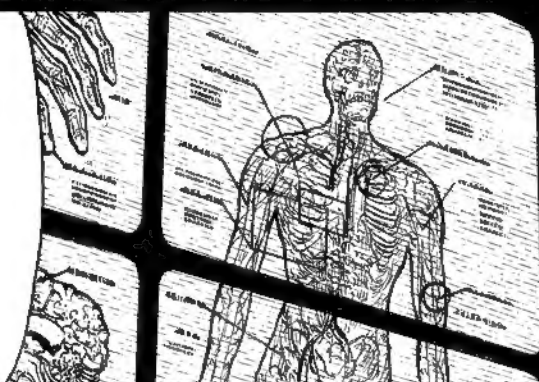


WAIT A
SECOND...

...HM,



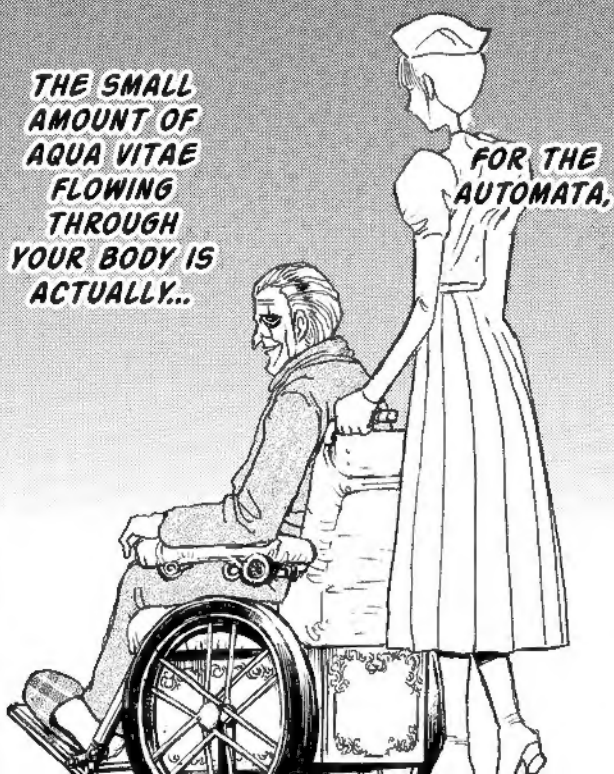
AND THEN, IT
CHANGES YOUR
CELLS LITTLE BY
LITTLE... YOU
WON'T BECOME AN
IMMORTAL
SHIROGANE, BUT
YOUR BODY WILL
GET TOUGHER...



EVEN IN
A SMALL
QUANTITY, THE
AQUA VITAE
CONTAINED IN
THE BLOOD OF A
SHIROGANE CAN
QUICKLY SPREAD
THROUGH THE
BODY...

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THE SMALL
AMOUNT OF
AQUA VITAE
FLOWING
THROUGH
YOUR BODY IS
ACTUALLY...



.....I
GUESS
SO...



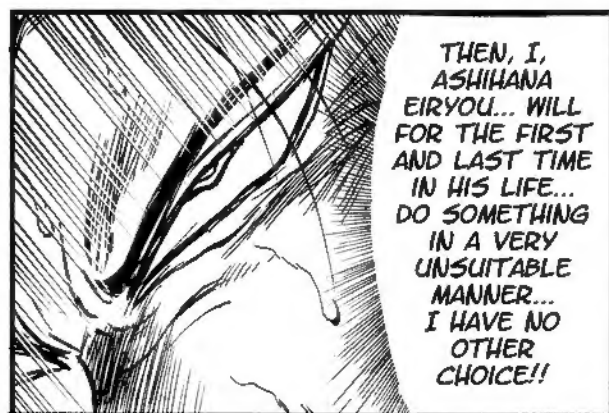
OH, SPEAKING
OF WHICH...





HAVING THE
TABLES
TURNED BY
IT'S TARGET
IS THE END
OF THE
LINE FOR A
HIT MAN...

WELL
THEN,
ASHI-
HANA.



THEN, I,
ASHIHANA
EIRYOU... WILL
FOR THE FIRST
AND LAST TIME
IN HIS LIFE...
DO SOMETHING
IN A VERY
UNSUITABLE
MANNER...
I HAVE NO
OTHER
CHOICE!!



RIGHT

I STILL
HAVE
THAT
TRICK
LEFT.

17



WHAT
ARE YOU
DOING?!
YOU'LL DIE
ANYWAY,
DOING
THAT NOW
IS.....?!



UGH...
UHHH!!



BUT I...

INTERVAL
SEE YOU NEXT STAGE

